GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2949
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
NEW DRUG FOR MALARIA
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Science (IIS) Bangalore has evolved a new turmeric based drug of Malaria; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir,Curcumin is derived from widely used Ayurvedic compound turmeric.Curcumin is a potent biological compound which has been shown to inhibit the growth of P falciparum in culture. Oral administration of curcumin to mice infected with Malaria parasite (Plasmodium berghei) reduces blood parasitemia by 80-90% and enhances their survival significantly.

The inclusion of drug in the programme could only be considered after successfull clinical trials and approval of the drug by the Food and Drug Administration.